

To Whom it May Concern;

I would like to express my support of Raised Bill No. 5315, An Act concerning the prevention of the habituation of potentially dangerous animals, the posting of informational notices concerning encounters with wildlife and the status of snapping turtles under state law. I am especially supportive of the provisions limiting or ending commercial trapping of snapping turtles. Commercial taking of any species generally leads to extirpation or near extirpation. Snapping turtles are a vital component of wetland habitats and their removal from the ecology would have wide-ranging consequences not easily reversed.

I am an avid naturalist and my experiences with snapping turtles in the field has underlined for me their importance to the overall biodiversity of wetland habitats. They are certainly not the insatiable, harmful species they are generally made out to be.

Once again, I support Raised Bill No. 5315 and its protective language concerning snapping turtles.

Thank you
Patricia Rasch